

DECLARATION, POWER OF ATTORNEY, AND PETITION

We,

- (1) Name: Norbert Abels  
Address: Talstraße 7  
66424 Homburg  
Germany  
Citizenship: Germany
- (2) Name: Claus H. Backes  
Address: St. Wendeler Straße 45  
66113 Saarbrücken  
Germany  
Citizenship: Germany

declare: that our citizenship, residence address, and post office address are as set forth above;  
that we verily believe we are the original, first, and joint inventors of the subject matter of the  
invention or discovery entitled SELF-LIGATING ORTHODONTIC BRACKETS INCLUDE A  
LIGATION COVER BIASED TOWARD AN OPEN OR CLOSED POSITION for which a  
patent is sought and which is described and claimed in the specification which was filed in the  
United States Patent and Trademark Office as Serial No. 09/952,584 on September 12, 2001;  
that we have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification,  
including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to herein; and that we  
acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this  
application in accordance with Section 1.56(a) of Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

We hereby claim the benefit under Section 120 of Title 35 of the United States Code of  
the earlier filed pending application, Serial No. 09/784,525 filed February 15, 2001; and, insofar  
as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the earlier filed  
pending application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Section 112 of Title 35 of  
the United States Code, we acknowledge the duty to disclose material information, as defined

in Section 1.56(a) of Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations, which occurred between the filing date of the earlier filed application and the filing date of this application.

We declare further that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful, false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful, false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

We hereby appoint as our attorneys and/or patent agents those listed under the following Customer Number with full power to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:



**022913**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Customer Number

All correspondence and telephonic communications should be directed to:

RICK D. NYDEGGER  
WORKMAN, NYDEGGER & SEELEY  
1000 Eagle Gate Tower  
60 East South Temple  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111  
Telephone: (801) 533-9800  
Facsimile: (801) 328-1707

Wherefore, we pray that Letters Patent be granted to us for the invention or discovery described and claimed in the foregoing specification and claims, declaration, power of attorney, and this petition.

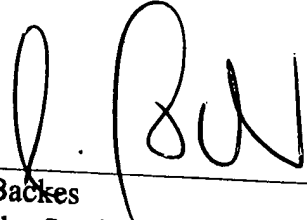
Signed at Homburg, Germany this 19th day of Dec,  
2001.

Inventor: Norbert Abels  
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Inventor: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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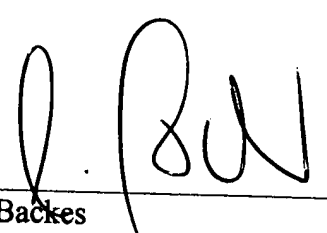
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